

Since a few pages were missing or notes not taken in order, the following title and introductory paragraph were taken from a section called "Amendments" . This section is repeated in the appropriate place.

Christian Missionary Society of Wabash County

We form ourselves into a Society which shall be called the Christian Missionary Society of Wabash County and auxiliary to the Christian Missionary Society of the State of Illinois . Its officers shall consist of one president, two or more vice presidents and one secretary and two messengers for each church and one additional for every fractional fifty over one hundred.

This organization was formed in October of 1862 during the Civil War. The Christian Missionary Society of Wabash County was affiliated with the Christian Missionary Society of the State of Illinois. Although close to Southern sympathizers , the Churches of Christ, Christian Church, or Disciples of Christ within the areas reached by this organization must have been in agreement with the state organization. There is much to be said for those with the courage to express their views in an area in which there could be some danger or at least unpleasantness in doing so. How much farther north would the seeds of slavery gone if everyone had tale turn run away from it as some prominent leaders of this denomination have been praised for so doing ?

Evidently a few pages were missing.

7th

Every evangelist employed shall be at any and all times amenable to the Society for his conduct and labors.

8th

Any Disciple of Christ may become a member of this Society by paying any sum of money or by pledging any sum to the ----- . One fourth to be paid quarterly in advance.

9th

The president, vice president and secretary shall be elected at a meeting of the Brotherhood annually by the Society.

10th

Seven of the aforementioned officers with the president, shall constitute a quorum of the transaction of any business in the name of the Society.

These officers must include the minimum of two messengers mentioned in the first paragraph of the Amendments from each congregation.

11th

Any article in this Constitution may be altered or amended by a majority of the members present at any annual meeting. notice thereof being given at least three months previous to the meeting.

Completed at Lick Prairie Wabash Co. Ill. October 11, 1862

Ira Wood Secretary of the Society

The prominence of Ira Wood in the organization during the time of the notes given here is why Barney's Prairie housed this information for years in a notebook which also had some information 20 years later pertinent only to Barney's Prairie. Ira was secretary-messenger and president-messenger of the organization. The next minutes entered in this book after the notes of the Society were the Barney's Prairie Sunday School records from Aug 12, 1888 until March 4, 1894.

Amendments

1st

We form ourselves into a Society which shall be called the Christian Missionary Society of Wabash County and auxiliary to the Christian Missionary Society of the State of Illinois . Its officers shall consist of one president, two or more vice presidents and one secretary and two messengers for each church and one additional for every fractional fifty over one hundred

Minutes of the annual cooperation meeting held in the Christian Chapel in Lick Prairie. Wabash County, Ill commencing on the 10th day of October 1862

Meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. and prayer was given by Brother Courter. Brother D. D. Miller preceded to address the meeting on the missionary cause-After which a committee of four was selected to arrange the business of the meeting. John M. Stewart, Ira Smith, John Sloan and Ira Wood. Said committee adjourned to meet on Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

October 11 The meeting assembled . The President and Secretary not being present Bro. John A. Greathouse was called to the chair and John Sloan Secretary.

The Committee of arrangements reports as follows:

- 1st Social meeting of an hour
- 2nd Reading of the minutes of the last meeting
- 3rd reports of the Messengers and Evangelists
- 4th an invitation of visiting brethern to participate with us
- 5th The best plan of-----
- 6th Calling for resolutions
- 7th Election of officers for the ensuing year.
- 8th Employing of evangelists fro the year 1863

The report being received, the minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted.

The reports from the messengers is as follows-- The reports from the Christian Church at Union School House was as follows: 41 male and 86 female members for a total of 127 members.

Ira B. Smith and Ira K. Smith are the elders. The Deacons are Samuel McIntosh and Henry Cusick. Wm. Courter is an ordained preacher

There were 34 additions since last January . The congregation meets each Lord's day. Sunday School consists of 34 Scholars

The annual pledge to the cooperation is \$40.

Ira K. Smith and Henry Cusick are the messengers for the congregation.

William Preston, Clerk of the Christian Church at Lick Prairie reports as follows: There are 30 males and 46 females for a total of 76.

Additions since last February are 12. Meet to break bread each Lord's day. Prayer meeting once a week. Preaching once a month. Elders Silas Baird, John H. Baird, Charles Putnam. Deacons John N. Baird, John M. Stewart. The amount pledged subject to the cooperation \$50. Charles Putnam, John M. Stewart messengers.
John M. Stewart Clerk.

The Christian Church in Barney's Prairie reports as follows:

males 38

Females 105

total 143

Additions since last February 16. Breaking of bread each Lord's Day. Sunday School about 50. S.S. Library 62 books

Two Bible Classes Ira Wood Superintendent. Elders Ira Keen, Robert Leek, Ira Wood. Deacons John Buchanan Marion Chaffee. The amount pledged subject to the cooperation = \$65. Ira Wood Clerk

The Christian Church of Lancaster has preaching and breaking of bread once a month. Social meeting a part of the time.

males 30, females 42, total 72. 10 additions since last February.

elders John Higgins, Wm S. Ridgely. Deacons Franklin Courter, Levi Couch. The amount pledged suggested to the cooperation \$50. James McMillen clerk John O. Greathouse, Franklin Courter Messengers.

The Christian Church at Bonpas reports as follows males 30, females 54 total 84. Additions since last year 29. Six that speak in public. Nine that lead in prayer. The amount pledged subject to the cooperation \$50. G. W. Sloan Clerk and John W. Sloan messenger.

The Christian Church near Rochester.

numbers 135 The amount pledged \$40. Wm McCleery messenger.

The reports from the Churches being received.

The reports from the Evangelists was called for
Bro Wm Courter labored since last February in as follows added
to Church.- 72 37 by confession, 9 by letter, 19 by elation??
from the Baptist 4, Methodist 1, restored 2. Recieved for my
labors to this time \$39.35

Bro. James McMillen reports that since the first of March 1862,
he has preached 112 discourses 7 funerals and added to the church by
confession 48, from the Baptist 2, from the presbyterians 1, from the
Methodists 6. visited 102 families. fee for my labors \$31.50

G. W. Morrell reports as follows: sermons preached 98, added to
the church by confession 10, by relation 10, from the sects. 6

On motion the reports from the Evangelists was received.

On motion a committee was chosen for to draw up a Constitution
James McMillen, John M. Stewart, Ira Wood composed said committee
Adjourned.

4 o'clock p.m. Meeting convened. The committee handed in the
Constitution which was read and after one or two amendments was adopted.

After which the following preamble and resolutions was offered by Bro
Miller and adopted: Where as the cause of pure primitive Christianity has
been reproached in this country and in particular in this county by
irresponsible preachers who have imposed themselves on us. Therefore
resolved that we will not invite to or receive into our pulpitsany man who
comes not well recommendedf with written credentials from the Brethern in
the locality from which he comes.

2nd Reesolved that in order to shut down the flood gates of imposition
here after we will make our constitution to and employ our home talents

3rd Resolved that we tender our request Christian love and respect to
our beloved Brothers James Mcmillen and Wm Courter, men who have stood
firm and proved themselves reliant for the truth in times that try mens souls
and are considering the cause of our blessed Sarias safe in their hands we
pledge ourselves by one means as God prospers us to sustain them in their
good work to which the Lord has called them

The following was offered by Bro Mc Millen

4th Resolved that we tender our thanks to Bros. Morrell and Reiste for their
untireing energies and efficient labors amongst us during the last year.

Offered by Bro. Wood

5th Resolved that the Secretary make out the minutes of this meeting and send these to the Bible Advocate American Christian Review for publication.

The meeting than went into the election of officers for the year.

John A. Greathouse was elected President Ira K. Smith Chester F. Putnam Vice presidents. Ira Wood Secretary. Adjourned until 8 o'clock to -----.

Meeting assembled and after prayer by Bro. J.K. Sloan they into consideration the sharing of Evangelists and after a considerable debate of the subject it was ascertained that we had not means enough to hire Evangelist for them to supply the County with preaching for the year 1863

On motion of Bro. Wood the meeting adjourned until Saturday at 11 O'clock befor the first Lords day in December next.

The messengers was instructed to solicit more subscription.

John A. Greathouse, President
Ira Wood Secretary

Messengers met according to adjournment and after prayer by Bro McMillen the messengers was called on to make their reports

The report from the Chruch at the Union School House paid \$60

Church at Lick Prairie reports \$63 paid \$60

Church at Barney's Prairie reports \$90.

Church at Lancaster reports \$75.00

Church near Rochester \$40.

Total = \$325.00

Mt. Carmel \$12.00

It was then arranged that Bro James McMillen would devote his whole time preaching at the following -----Union School House, Lick Prairie, Lancaster, Barney's Prairie and Mount Carmel for the year 1863 for the sum of three hundred dollars \$300.00

Ira Wood Secretary

The fourth annual cooperation meeting of the Churches of Christ in Wabash County, Illinois was held in the Union Chapel in Lancaster commencing on Friday at 11 O'clock before the first Lord's day in Oct 1863. The president took his seat and called the house to order. Bro James Hall from Edwards County opened the meeting by reading the 13th Chapter of first Corinthians and prayer. An invitation was given to visiting Brethern to participate with us the minutes of last year's meeting was than read and adopted. A committee of three was then chosen to arrange the business of the meeting. Bros Wm. F. Preston, John W. Stewart and James McMillen composed said committee. Another committee of three Franklin Courter, John A. Morgan, Edward K. Courter was selected to arrange the Preaching such as man and subject. Adjourned until 3 o'clock

T.M. ---3 O'clock convened. And after reading and prayer by Brother Miller a committee of three was then chosen to draft resolutions to be adopted as rejected by the Society. Bros William Courter, James Hall and James McMillen composed said committee.

The messengers from the different congregations came forward and handed in their reports.

1st

The Church of Christ at Lick Prairie met every Lord's day. Preaching once a month by Elder James McMillen. Meet in Bible Class every Lord's day. Prayer meeting once a week. The officers are as follows Elders Silas Buisek and C. F. Putnam Deacons² John W. Baird and John W. Stewart. total number of members 85. 34 males and 51 females. additions last year 14. 2 dismissed by letter and 2 withdrawn.

The amount pledged for the support of the gospel for the year 1864 is \$40 John M. Stewart and Lewis B. Buisek messengers.

The Chruch of Christ meeting for worship in Lancaster is follows: Elders² Wm S. Ridgely, John Higgins. Deacons² Levi Couch and Franklin Courter. 1 resident minister James McMillen also cleck 73 members 31 males 42 females additions last year 3. Preaching once a month. the amount pledged for the support of the gospel for the year 1864 is \$50 Wm. S. Ridgely and John Higgins messengers.

The Church of Christ in Barney's Prairie reports as follows Males 54, females 143 total 197. Additions last year 52 Meeting every Lord's day to break bread. We have a Sunday School of about seventy scholars . Three Bible Classes in said sxhool The Church is fully organized with three Elders, three Deacons. Ira Wood clerk. The amount pledged for the support of the Gospel for the year 1864 is \$100. Edward Courter, Ira wood Messengers

The Church of Christ meeting for worship in Union School house makes the following report Male members 39, female members 93 for a total of 132. Additions for the last year was 17. Elders J. B. Smith and J. k. Smith. Deacons S. McIntosh Levi Couch Wm. Courter ordained preacher 2 Sunday Schools one here and one at Timberville. The 2 number 90 scholars. The amount pledged for the support of the Gospel for the year 1864 is \$50. William F. Preston and Henry Cusic messengers Wm. F. Preston Clerk.

The Church of Christ in Mt. Carmel numbers some 32 members. This is a newly organized congregation. They have not pledged any amount yet. John A. Morgan Messenger.

Adjourned until 7 o'clock to maron maeniny???

Assembled according to adjournment and after social meeting. The Evangelists was called on to make their reports. From January 1863, Bro James Mc Millen states that he has preached 189 discourses besides many exhortations in the last year and has added eighty two members to the fold of Christ. 22 out of the county. Has spent considerable time in visiting, which in many instances has resulted in good.

Brother Wm Courter notes that since the cooperation meeting in 1862 he has added to the Lord 141 souls mostly in Lawrence andd Crawford counties.

Bro. James Hall from Edwards county reports 12 additions in this county under his labors.

Brother Samuel V. Williams from Carmi being present was called to give the result of his labors the last year. he reports 157 additions to the army of the faithful. mostly in White and Hamilton Counties. Adjourned until 3 o' Clock P.M. meeting assembled according to adjournment and after prayer and some preliminary business. The committee on resolutions was then called

on to make their report.

1st Resolved that we will endeavor from this time forward to live closer to that teaching in the word of God that requires us to serve him with our substance.

2nd Resolved that it is the duty of every Christian to contribute of his means as the Lord has prospered them for the support of the Gospel and the maintenance of his cause.

3rd Whereas the cause of Christ languishes in many localities for the want of funds to sustain the Gospel. Resolved that it is the duty of the Elders to impress upon the minds of the members of the several congregations the necessity of their contributing for the support of the Gospel upon the principle of equality.

4th Resolved that every Christian family who are able to take a political paper, should also take the Gospel Echo or some other Christian paper.

5th Resolved that the Brethren live up to and practice what they feel and know to be their duty as Christians nearer than we have in days that is past and gone.

6th Resolved that we as brethren where we meet at the house of a Brother to dine with them that we make the cause of Christianity the topic of conversation.

7th Resolved that the secretary make out a report of this meeting and send it to the Gospel Echo for publication.

The House then went into the election of officers for the next year. John A. Greathouse, President; Ira K. Smith, Chester F. Putnam vice presidents. Ira Wood, Secretary.

The house agreed with Bros Wm. Courter and James Hall to labor one half of their time in the county for the sum of \$100 each and with brother James McMillen one fourth of his time for \$50.

Adjourned until Friday before the second Lord's day in Oct. 1864 to be held at Barney's Prairie. The Semi annual meeting of the society will be held on Saturday at 11 o'clock before the second Lord's day in April.

John A. Greathouse President

Ira Wood, secretary

The Semi-annual meeting of the Wabash County Cooperation Society was held in the Union School house on Saturday the ninth of April 1864. The president being absent, Bro Ira K. Smith vice president took the chair. Bro. James McMillen mad a verbal report of his labors in the gospel since the last yearly meeting he reports 48 additions to the Lord.

Bro. Wm. Courter states that causing to difficulties over vehicle he had no control he has preached but little since the last cooperation. He reports seven additions to the Lord.

After a number of short speeches from the Brethern upon different topics. the following resolution was adoped:

Resolved that in raising funds for to meet the next cooperation meeting. We notify those that sign that the society intends to set a part a portion of the same for the spread of the Gospel in destitute parts of the county. After some other matters of a local nature the society adjorned.

Ira K. Smith President Ira Wood, Secretary

The fifth annual meeting of the Wabash co. Cooperation met at Barney Prairie on Friday before the second Lord's day in Oct 1864 with the president in the chair. On motion the president appointed bros H. L. Ballard, E. H. Courter and James McMillen on community arrangement of business . Adjourned until 5:00 o'clock p.m.

Friday at 5:00 o'clock p.m. met according to adjournment. The committee on arrangements handed in there report which was returned. Adjourned until Sat. at 9:00 a.m.

On Saturday 9:00 o'clock assembled after prayer by .P.T. Hall, the messengers came forward and in enrolled their names and handed in their reports.

The elders of the Barney Prairie Church were appointed to arrange the preaching for the public worship and who should preach.

The president appointed Bros E. H. Courter, F. Courter and A. I. Burnit on committe to conform with the evangelist.

The report from the different churches was read and adopted

1st from Barney's Prairie

2nd from Lick Prairie

3rd from Lancaster

The evangelists handed their reports which were read and received.

1st C. J. Hall

2nd James McMillen

Start at Sat 3 o'clock. Assembled at 3:00. Prayer by Bro. Couch. The Society employed Bro. W. R. Couch to hold a meeting at the following places: Barney's Prairie, Lick Prairie, Lancaster and the rest of the time as he sees proper for \$225.

The Society then elected its officers for the following year.

Bro. E. H. Courter President

Bros L. Ballard and F. Courter V.Pres

Bro. H. I. Burnet Secretary

Reports

Report no. 1

The Church of Christ worshipping at Barney's Prairie. Numbers 200 members: males 60 and females 140. Total additions = 14. transferred by letter 5 withdrawn from 4 meet on every Lord's day for worship and breaking the loaf. Sunday School of about 70 or 80 scholars. The amount pledged for 1865 is \$115.

E.H. Courter and Wiley Childers, messengers

Report no. 2

Report of the Church of Christ worshipping at Lick prairie. The brethren meet on every Lord's day for sacral worship and on Wednesday night for prayer. Regular Preaching once a month by Bro. CT Hall. Number of members 77 male 31 Female 46. Received by letter 3 dismissed by letter 8 withdrawn from 3 in the U. S. Service 8. deaths 2 one in the army. Pledged \$60

H. T. Ballard and A. I. Burnet messengers

Report no 3.

The church meeting for worship at Lancaster is as follows. Elders 2M. Ridgely and J. Higgins. Deacons 2 and residing minister J. Mc Millen. no. of members 70. males 29, females 41. Preaching once a month by CT Hall amount pledged for the support of the Gospel for 1865 is \$60. Wm. F Courter and J.Higgins messengers.

Report no. 4

Report of CT Hall. preached 100 discourses. Attended 9 funerals. baptized 6 reclaimed 1 and received by letter 3 Received \$67.35 in salary. CT Hall

Report no. 5

My labors during the present year are as follows: I have spent every Lord's day that I was able in the ministry. Held 2 -----? meetings two weeks each. by my labors there has been 41 added to the church 35 by confession 6 by letter. J. Mc Millen

Report no 6

Delivered 30 discourses 2 funerals immersed 7. Labors grattis. Recieved of Dr. James Leeds \$200 as manifestation of his wishes for the success of the gospel.

Walter R. Couch

On motion the Society adjourned to meet at Lick prairie on Friday before the 2nd Lord's day in Oct 1865.

John A. Greathouse, president

Ira Wood, Past Sec

REPORTS

Nov. 8 No. 1 Lick Prairie

The Church of Christ worshipping at Lick Prairie reports as follows male members 25 female members 37 Total 62. Dismissed by letter 5 additions 4, deceased 1. The amount pledged \$60. F. H. Moon and H. P. Ballard messengers

No. 2 Lancaster

The Church of Christ at Lancaster reports as follows; Male members 34, female members 47 Total 81. Additions 12. Deceased 2. Amount Pledged \$60. J Higgins and Wm F. Courter messengers.

No. 3 Barney Prairie

The Church of Christ at Barney reports as follows male members 65 females 153 total 218. additions during year 37. dismissed by letter 10. Amount pledged \$80. John Shoaff and Ira Wood messengers.

No. 4 Friend Grove

The Church of Christ at Friend Grove reports as follows : Amt. pledged \$29

RESOLUTIONS

1ST Resolve that we as followers of Christ and a band of bsellman?? will continue from in the most of forth and labors of love resolve that it is the duty of the brethern in this county to contribute of their means as the Lord prospers them for the spread of the gospel.

2nd Resolve the treasurers of several congregations to make a final report to the secretary.

Lick Prairie Nov the 10th 1866

The sixth annual meeting of the Wabash Co. C.M.S. met on Friday 11:00o'clock a.m. The President being absent Bro Courter vice president took the chair. After prayer by Bro Andrew Baird, they appointed a community on arrangement also a comittee in for preaching . The committee on business reported. This report was received. Adjourned.

Met at 2:00 p.m. The president being present took the chair, reading and prayer by Bro. J. Mc Millen. The messengers enrolled their names.

The president appointed a committ as resolutions als one to confer with the evangelist. Adjourned

met Sat, 9 o'clock am.m The preceding minutes were read and adopted. Reports from the different congregations :

1st Report from Lick Prairie read and adopted

2nd Report from Lancaster read and adopted

3rd Report from Barney's Prairie read and adopted.

4th Report form Friend Grove read and adopted

The report of committee on resolutions was handed in and disposed of. Adjourned at 2 O'clock.

The report of the evangelists were handed in read and received.

The next annual meeting will be held at Lancaster commencing on Fri 11 o'clock before the ? Lord's day in Oct. 1866

Officers for the next year, Ira Wood and Ed Courter vps, Ed Courter President, TJ Burnit, Secretary

Reports for 1866

Barney's Prairie 33 additions, No. Male members 64, No of female members 157 total 221. Sunday School and meeting every Lord's day.

Lick Prairie 9 additions, 7 excommunications Total members 71 Meeting every Lord's day. Preaching once per month

Lancaster Oct 19, 1866

The seventh annual meeting of the Wasbush Co Cooperation was held in Union Chappel in Lancaster. Reading and prayer by Bro Hossell. On motion the society adopted the same rules of order that it had at the last meeting. The Messengers enrolled their names and handed in their reports which were read and adopted.

A committee was appointed to confer with evangelist. Adjourned till 2 O'clock.

Met at 2 p.m. Prayer by Bro. Ballard the committee reported. The churches at Mt. Carmel and Barney's Prairie employed Bro. A. Wiles at a salary of six hundred dollars \$600. The messengers were instructed to raise all the money they could to pay the debt on the Church at Mt. Carmel.

Adjourned to meet at Barney's Prairie on Fri 9:00 p.m. before the 2nd Lords day in Oct, 1867.

Pres. Ira Wood and A.J. Baird Secretary

Barney's Prairie Oct 11 1867

The brethren met at the Barney's Prairie meeting house at 2 o'clock. Prayer by Bro. Mc Millen. The churchers at Lick Prairie, Barney's Prairie and Lancaster reported.

The chair appointed a committee on business. Next adjourned to meet at 9:00. Met at 9 o'clock a.m. A question was raised in respect to members moving away from a congregation without a letter.

On motion the constitution and by-laws were dispensed with and the Brethren formed themselves into next meeting. It formed to meet at 2 p.m. motion the churches be instructed to taking a constitution motion quarterly for missionary work a motion the president appointed a committee of three to direct the missionary labor of the causes. The churches at Mt. Carmel, Barney's Prairie, Lancaster, employed Bro. Treat to preach for them. On motion adjourned to in Mt. Carmel on Friday 10 p.m. before the 3 Lord's day in Oct in 1868. A.J. Burnit. Secretary.

REPORT FOR 1867

Lick Prairie additions by confession 2, by letter 5, dismissed excommunication 1, dismissed by letter 1. 76 members Meet every Lord's day.

B.P. additions 9 dismissed by letter 3 withdrawn from 4, deaths 8, membership is 229. Meeting every Lord's day
Lancaster Meeting every Sunday. 81 members

Lick Prairie Oct 10 1868

The brethren met according to previous arrangements in the Lick Prairie meeting house Friday 10 O' Clock . The House called to order by the chair. Prayer by Bro. Morrell. The chair then proceeded to lay the design of the meeting before the house. On motion the chair appointed Bros. Putnam, Treat, and Worrell on committee to arrange the business of the meeting. Adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock. Two O'clock prayer by Bro Treat. The committee received Bros. Treat and Worrell reports success of the Gospel in the field of labor prospers good.

Discussion on the preaching of the Gospel in destitute places . Also on Church government. On freedom the present program be the subject of investigation at our next meeting Bro Putnam of Mt. Carmel Pres and Bro ---- Lick Prairie for the next meeting. On motion the meeting adjourned to meet at Barney's . Prairie . Friday 10 o'clock a.m. before the second Lord's day in Oct a.d. 1869.

Ira Wood, President and AJ Baird, Secretary .